
NOTES ON PHORESY BETWEEN *RHEOTANYTARSUS* SP. (DIPTERA: CHIRONOMIDAE) AND *TRICORYTHODES* SP. (EPHEMEROPTERA: TRICORYTHIDAE) IN A SOUTH CAROLINA TAILWATER STREAM¹

Thomas J. Wilda²

ABSTRACT: A phoretic relationship between larvae of *Rheotanytarsus* and *Tricorythodes* is reported for the first time.

White et al. (1980) reported that phoresy involving chironomid larvae is relatively common in the Piedmont region of South Carolina. They found *Rheotanytarsus* sp. (Diptera: Chironomidae) larvae on the odonates *Boyeria venosa* (Say), *Macromia* sp., and *Calopteryx maculata* (Beauvois), the trichopteran *Nectopsyche exquisita* (Walker), and the ephemeropteran *Stenonema smithae* Traver. *Rheotanytarsus* sp. have also been reported in phoretic associations with *Pteronarcys dorsata* (Say) (Dosdall et al. 1986) and *Corydalus cornutus* (Linnaeus) (Furnish et al. 1981 cited in Dosdall et al. 1986). I collected a 5 mm-long larva of *Tricorythodes* sp. with a fourth instar *Rheotanytarsus* sp. larva attached dorsally to its thorax (Figure 1) in September, 1986, while sampling the Saluda River below Saluda Hydroelectric Station (Greenville Co., SC). This is the first report of a phoretic relationship between these organisms.

¹Received February 18, 1987. Accepted March 30, 1987.

²Duke Power Company, Applied Science Center, Route 4 Box 531, Huntersville, NC 28078.



Figure 1. *Tricorythodes* larva with *Rheotanytarsus* encased on its thorax.

LITERATURE CITED

- Dosdall, L.M., P.G. Mason, and D.M. Lehmkuhl. 1986. First records of phoretic Chironomidae (Diptera) associated with nymphs of *Pteronarcys dorsata* (Say) (Plecoptera: Pteronarcyidae). Can. Entomol. 118: 511-515.
- Furnish, J., D. Belluck, D. Baker, and B.A. Pennington. 1981. Phoretic relationships between *Corydalis cornutus* (Megaloptera: Corydalidae) and Chironomidae in eastern Tennessee. Ann. Ent. Soc. Am. 74: 29-30.
- White, T.R., J.S. Weaver III, and R.C. Fox. 1980. Phoretic relationships between Chironomidae (Diptera) and benthic macroinvertebrates. Entomol. News 91: 69-74.